

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY/TOWN OF GOSHEN WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 6

1500 Hours June 24, 2007

New information is in bold italics.

Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours daily

SUMMARY

The Town of Goshen water system was shut down on 14 June due to a leak that occurred on 13 June. A local emergency was declared at 1100 hours, 14 June. Actions are being coordinated to identify leaks in the system and alleviate the adverse conditions.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at **Recovery** Operations and augmented with limited staff.

State of Emergency: Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a state of emergency on June 20, 2007 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, directing state agencies to take all necessary actions to aid in the response and recovery from a water outage in the town of Goshen in Rockbridge County.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared: Rockbridge County declared a local emergency on 14 June 2007

ESF 15 – External Affairs: VDEM and VDH Public Affairs are coordinating Public Affairs support to Rockbridge County and the Town of Goshen. Public Affairs staff are responding to media inquiries and coordinating release of public awareness information.

WEATHER FORECAST

Rockbridge County: Sunday, 24 June – Partly sunny with scattered showers and thunderstorms; high temperatures in the mid 80's with light and variable winds becoming south around 10 MPH in the afternoon. **Sunday night** – Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms; low temperatures in the lower 60's with light and variable winds. **Monday, 25 June** – Partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon; high temperatures in the mid 80's with light and variable winds.

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 5 – Emergency Management: Continuing to coordinate conference calls with locality and impacted state agencies while producing and distributing State Situation Report. VDEM Mobile Command Post, 4 support vehicles and VDEM/VEOC Communications Staff, Operations Staff, Local Planning Staff and Regional Hazardous Materials Officers are on scene to support coordination and communications. Staff has established amateur radio capability using the Lexington VHF Repeater as backup, if needed. ***Demobilization plan has been developed for state resources and is scheduled to be implemented on Monday, 25 June.***

Local Liaison: VDEM Local Support Services Region Three Coordinator on scene to assist local Emergency Management officials. VDEM Local Liaison section augmented with limited staffing to accept requests for assistance.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services: VA Department of Health (VDH)

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Boil Water Advisory remains in effect until further notice. VDH Office of Drinking Water staff is monitoring town's emergency water supply needs while having mobilized for rapid water sample collection and arranged for laboratory testing of water samples, in anticipation that the Town's water delivery problems will be corrected. This will expedite use of the system by residents as soon as possible following lifting of the Boil Water Advisory. VDH is in contact with three area hospitals in order to detect and investigate any disease outbreak related to potential water contamination. Ready to feed baby formula is being made available for all infants who are part of the Women, Infants and Children Program in the Goshen area affected by the water shortage by Central Shenandoah Health District. VDH Office of Drinking Water is working with VA Department of Housing and Community Development and USDA Rural Development to identify funding options to replace lines rather than continual repair.

ESF 16 – Military Support: VA National Guard (VNG)

36 VNG personnel are on State Active Duty assisting with water distribution and water hauling operations.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services: American Red Cross

The Red Cross continues to feed response and repair workers while assisting with water and information distribution.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: VA Department of Emergency Management

Rockbridge County Emergency Management requested additional communications support from the State so that the operation would not tie up the EMS channels in the county. VDEM provided a repeater and 6 handheld units to assist with the operations. An additional 10 land lines, fax capability and interoperability radios are operational. Fifteen requests for assistance have been received; twelve have been completed, one has been cancelled, and two are in progress.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

The water outage continues in the town of Goshen and an Information & Assistance Center has been established for Goshen residents, at 540-997-7267 or 540-997-7268. ***The Town's main water tank was filled with approximately 54 feet of water, and this morning (24 June) the tank continued to hold approximately 49 feet, and the system has maintained pressure. Plans are to operate the system on a near normal basis for all residents, allowing for bathing and flushing. ODW staff will begin to purge the system of highly chlorinated water it now contains and prepare for water sample testing next week. Fourteen leaks have been identified and repaired and currently there are no leaks detected.*** The VA Rural Water Association, the Town of Craigsville, Augusta County, and local contractors McClung Brothers and Enviro-Clean are assisting local officials with leak detection. It is anticipated, if the system remains in tact, that the south portion of town could be on line next week. Even though water may begin to appear in the Town system, a voluntary conservation request has been issued, and Goshen residents are asked not to use the water. Conserving water will enable operators to more accurately locate leaks, and to more quickly restore the system to normal operation. Residents also are asked to make sure that all taps and faucets are closed. Water distribution is available at Town Hall and water is being delivered to residents who are incapacitated or unable to drive. ***A staging area located at Routes 39 and 42 has been set up to distribute non-potable water.***

To ensure adequate fire protection is in place, fire departments in adjacent communities have been placed on stand-by and ***a burn ban remains in effect for the Town of Goshen.*** Virginia Baptist Disaster Relief Disaster Response Shower and Laundry unit is on scene and showers are also available at the Best Western Hotel in Lexington.

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